

## **JOSEPH W. KIRSCHBAUM, PhD**

Joe Kirschbaum is a Director in the Defense Capabilities and Management Team of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He assists congressional committees by overseeing evaluations of U.S. Government programs in the Strategic Warfare and Intelligence area, focusing mostly on the Department of Defense.

Over his 27-year career with GAO, Mr. Kirschbaum conducted and led audits throughout the range of defense and national security programs. Among the topics he has covered are U.S. strategic nuclear forces; military cyberspace doctrine and operations; information operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; counterproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive preparedness and consequence management; homeland defense; Army and Navy force structure; and development of the Navy's littoral combat ship. In 2013 Mr. Kirschbaum served as an acting director in GAO's Homeland Security and Justice Team, overseeing evaluations of federal emergency preparedness and homeland security programs

Mr. Kirschbaum comes from a Navy family and upon graduating High School served briefly on active duty in the U.S. Navy's nuclear propulsion program. Mr. Kirschbaum has a Bachelors degree in History and Political Science, a Masters degree in National Security Studies (both from California State University, San Bernardino) and a Ph.D in military history from George Washington University.